

HOW TO KEEP SAVED

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INTRODUCTION

1. A Christian has been saved from past sins and has come into a saved relationship.
 - a. Mark 16:15 – 16
 - b. Gal. 3:27
 - c. I Cor. 12:13
 - d. Acts 2:47
2. A Christian wants to stay saved.
3. The same desire which caused him to obey the gospel will motivate him to do what he can to stay saved.
4. A person does not stay saved simply because he has obeyed the gospel.
5. Many teach, and say, that a child of God cannot apostatize and be lost.
6. But, we affirm that the Word of God abounds in passages setting forth the fact that a child of God can fall so as to be finally lost, and God's children are warned again and again of such possibility of facing such a danger.
 - a. We can depart from the faith – I Tim. 4:1.
 - b. We can err from the faith – I Tim. 6:10.
 - c. We can err from the truth – 2 Tim. 2:18; James 5:19 – 20.
 - d. We can turn aside after Satan – I Tim. 5:15.
 - e. We can make shipwreck of faith – I Tim. 1:19.
 - f. We can deny the faith – I Tim. 5:8.
 - g. We can leave our first love – Rev. 2: 4 – 5.
 - h. We can turn from God's holy commandments – 2 Pet. 2: 20 – 21.
 - i. We can forsake the right way – 2 Pet. 2:15.
 - j. We can fall – I Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 3:17; Heb. 3:12.
 - k. We can depart from the living God – Heb. 3:12.
7. CALVANISM teaches the PRESERVATION OF THE SAINTS UNCONDITIONALLY.
8. The BIBLE teaches us that God's children are KEPT PRESERVED and FINALLY SAVED by the power of God CONDITIONALLY.
 - a. The condition is faith, or faithfulness – I Pet. 1: 5, 9; James 2:24; Col. 1: 22 – 23; Rev. 2: 10; 2 Tim. 4: 6 – 8; Matt. 25: 20 – 23.
9. Let us study some things a Christian must do to keep his soul saved from sin.
 - I. **A CHRISTIAN MUST READ AND STUDY THE WORD OF GOD REGULARLY**
 - a. Only by study can we grow – I Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18.
 - b. All things that pertain to life and godliness comes through a knowledge of God's will – 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - c. Only by study can we discriminate between truth and error, sin and righteousness – Heb. 5:12 -14.

- d. By study and having the Word in our heart, we do not sin against God – Psa. 110:11; I Pet. 4:2; Eph. 5:17.
- e. By study we can overcome temptation – Matt. 4: 3 – 4.
- f. By studying His word we are built up and will be given an inheritance among all them which are sanctified – Acts 20:32.
- g. We all need to hunger and thirst after righteousness – Matt. 5:6.
- h. We need to give attendance to reading and study daily – I Tim. 4:13; Eph. 3:4; Acts 17:11.

II. A CHRISTIAN MUST ATTEND ALL THE SERVICES

- a. We are told not to forsake the assemblies of the church – Heb. 10: 25.
- b. We should be glad when the saints come together – Psa. 122:1; 27:4.
- c. The public worship of the church is for our own good.
 - i. It is to provoke unto love and to good works – Heb. 10: 24.
 - ii. In the assembly we teach and admonish one another in song – Col. 3:16.
 - iii. In the assembly we pray together – Acts 2: 42; Matt. 18:19.
 - iv. We are to give – I Cor. 16:1 – 2; Acts 2:42.
 - v. Teach – Acts 20:7; 2:42.
 - vi. We must eat the Lord’s Supper each first day of the week – Acts 20:7.
- d. One of the marks of spiritual sickness is missing the opportunity for collective worship.
- e. Those who begin neglecting worship become less and less spiritual people.
- f. Those who neglect worship become more and more worldly.
- g. On the other hand, those who always place worship as a right priority in their lives tend to grow in Christ.

III. CHRISTIANS MUST BE WORKERS

- a. *“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only”* – James 2:24.
- b. Paul said, *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”* – Phil. 2: 12.
- c. Jesus is *“The author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.”* – Heb. 5:9.
- d. Eph. 2:10 – *“created in Christ Jesus unto good works”*.
- e. 2 Tim. 3:17
- f. I Cor. 15:58
- g. Heb. 6:10
- h. Gal. 5:6
- i. Rev. 20:12
- j. Matt. 16: 27 – *“he shall reward every man according to his works”*.
- k. Matt. 7:21

IV. A CHRISTIAN MUST KEEP PURE

- a. We must think pure thoughts – Phil. 4:8; Matt. 5:8.
- b. Impure thinking defiles a man – Mark 7: 20 – 23.
- c. Without holiness we cannot see the Lord – Heb. 12:14.
- d. We are to be holy in all our conduct – I Pet. 1:15.
- e. We must be unspotted from the world – James 1: 27.

- f. We have been called unto holiness – I Thess. 4:7.
- g. We must not love the world – I John 2:15 – 17.

V. A CHRISTIAN MUST ASSOCIATE WITH CHRISTIANS

- a. Our association with others has a tremendous influence on us.
- b. The God of heaven has warned us:
 - i. *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not”* – Prov. 1: 10.
 - ii. *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners”* – I Cor. 15: 33.
- c. Solomon’s wives turned away his heart after other gods when he was old – I Kings 11:4.
- d. If we are truly interested in keeping saved, we will make a conscientious effort to associate with other Christians.

VI. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD LISTEN TO REBUKES

- a. The rebuke that comes from the preaching of the Word – 2 Tim. 4:2.
- b. The warnings that come from the elders – I Thess. 5:14; Heb. 13:17.
- c. The spiritual-minded Christians that talk to men about their sins – Gal. 6:1; James 5:19 – 20.
- d. *“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools”* – Eccl. 7:5.
- e. We should listen to the rebukes of Christian friends who have our own good at heart.

VII. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD PRAY REGULARLY

- a. Paul said, *“Pray without ceasing”* – I Thess. 5:17.
- b. Jesus said, *“That men ought always to pray, and not faint”* – Luke 18:1.
- c. Paul said, *“Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God – Phil. 4:8.*
- d. We are to pray for our daily bread – Matt. 6:11.
- e. Peter said, *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”* – I Pet. 3:12.
- f. Jesus teaches us to ask the Father for our needs – Matt. 7: 7 – 11.
- g. Some things about prayer every Christian should know:
 - i. Prayer is personal communication with God, a personal Being; A Being who will reward those who have faith in Him – Heb. 11:6.
 - ii. God is able to answer prayer.
 - 1. *“God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”* – Eph. 3:20.
 - iii. God is willing to answer prayer – I Pet. 3:12; Matt. 7:11; Psa. 145: 18; James 5:16; James 1: 5 – 8.
- h. Prayer builds a close communion or fellowship with God – James 4:8.

VIII. A CHRISTIAN MUST BE HUMBLE

- a. HUMBLE: lowliness of mind.
- b. Christians are to *“be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble”* – I Pet. 5:5; James 4: 6.
- c. *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up”* – James 4:10.

- d. Col. 3:12 – “Put on . . . humbleness of mind”.
- e. Rom. 12:3.
- f. Matt. 5:3 – “Poor in Spirit”
- g. Only the humble in heart will submit to God.

IX. A CHRISTIAN MUST BE FORGIVING.

- a. If we do not forgive men, God will not forgive us—Matt. 6:14 – 15.
- b. We are to forgive men as often as they repent – Luke 17: 3 – 4.
- c. Col. 3:13
- d. Eph. 4:32
- e. Matt. 18: 21 – 35
- f. All of us need God’s compassion and forgiveness.

X. WE MUST EXAMINE OURSELVES WHETHER WE BE IN THE FAITH.

- a. 2 Cor. 13:5
- b. Acts 20:28
- c. I Tim. 4:16
- d. Gal. 6:4
- e. We must always examine ourselves in light of the faith, not in light of what others are doing – 2 Cor. 10:12.
- f. We need to see ourselves as God sees us.
- g. This can only be done by looking into the Word of God and comparing our life with it – James 1: 22<25.

XI. CHRISTIANS MUST ADD THE GRACES OF 2 PET. 1: 5 – 11

- a. “Add to your faith virtue”
 - i. “Virtue” is manliness or courage.
 - ii. It takes courage to:
 1. Enter a life of self-denial and cross-bearing.
 2. To renounce the friendship of the world.
 3. To break off old companionships.
 4. To change some of our habits.
 5. To stand against false doctrine.
 6. To stand against worldliness.
- b. “Add to virtue knowledge”
 - i. Christians must grow in Knowledge – 2 Pet. 3:18.
 - ii. The results of knowledge:
 1. Makes us free from sin – John 8:32.
 2. Escape the pollutions of the world – 2 Pet. 2:20.
 - iii. We are “not to be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” —Eph. 5:17.
- c. “To knowledge temperance” -- (self-control).
 - i. Self-control is self-mastery.
 - ii. Paul said he practiced “self-control” – I Cor. 9:27.

- iii. Sin into which we fall when we fail to exercise self-control:
 1. Covetousness – Eph. 5:5.
 2. Drunkenness – Gal. 5:21.
 3. Adultery and fornication – I Cor. 7:5.
 4. Thinking evil thoughts.
 5. Jealousy – Gal. 5:20.
 - d. *“and to temperance patience”*
 - i. A patient man does not swerve from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to the faith even by the greatest trials and sufferings.
 - ii. A patient man is not ready to quit at every turn.
 - e. *“and to patience Godliness”*
 - i. “Godliness” means reverence and piety.
 - ii. Respect for the divine.
 - f. *“brotherly kindness”*
 - i. “The love Christians cherish for each other as brethren”
 - ii. John 13: 34 – 35
 - iii. Gal. 6: 10
 - iv. Eph. 4:32
 - g. *“to brotherly kindness love”*
 - i. Universal love
 1. God – Matt. 22: 37 – 38.
 2. Christ – Matt. 10:37
 3. The Truth – 2 Thess. 2:10 – 12.
 4. The church – Eph. 5:23
 5. One another – Heb. 13:1
 6. The lost – Rom. 10:1
 7. Our enemies – Matt. 5: 43 – 47

CONCLUSION

- The child of God must continue to obey the second law of pardon to have confidence:
 - When we sin as Christians we must:
 - Repent – Acts 8:22
 - Confess – I John 1:9
 - Pray – Acts 8:22
- A child of God can truly have confidence in his hope of salvation if he is faithful in his obedience to the will of God:
 - I Pet. 1:5
 - 2 Tim. 4:6 – 8
 - I John 2:3 – 4
 - I John 5: 14 – 15